

# Wayne Allard

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## **ALLARD BILL TO TERMINATE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA MANAGEMENT OF LOS ALAMOS NUCLEAR WEAPONS LAB**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-Colorado) introduced legislation Thursday that would require the U.S. Department of Energy to terminate its contract with the University of California to operate the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico by March 15, 2005, and require the Secretary of the Department of Energy to appoint an interim manager to run the laboratory until a new contractor could be formally selected in the fall of 2005.

The legislation also would prohibit the University of California from competing in the upcoming competition for management of the laboratory. The Allard legislation, entitled the Los Alamos National Laboratory National Security Act, comes on the heels of several recent security, safety and accounting violations at the laboratory, including the disappearance of two classified computer storage devices, the transmission of classified information via the internet, the serious injury of a Los Alamos worker and the fraudulent use of government resources.

"I am fed up with the careless way the Laboratory has been run," said Senator Allard, chairman of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee of the Senate Armed Services Committee. "Such laxity, the repeated and senseless violations of security and safety, cannot be tolerated, particularly in a laboratory that is absolutely vital to our nation's security."

"I have been to Los Alamos, met with the workers, and have seen the critical work they perform for our nation," Senator Allard said. "We have some of the finest nuclear scientists, weapons designers, engineers, and technicians in the world, and it upsets me to no end to see their outstanding work mismanaged in such a fashion."

Senator Allard visited Los Alamos last year during a week long examination of our nuclear weapons complex. He also visited Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Laboratories. At that time of his visit, he had been given multiple assurances by University of California officials at Los Alamos that issues of security and safety had been appropriately addressed.

"Clearly, after 60 years of managing Los Alamos for the federal government, the

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University of California has grown too comfortable, too arrogant to properly manage this national security asset," Senator Allard said. "The American people, indeed the workers at Los Alamos, demand that our laboratories be run in a manner that reflects the seriousness of the work being conducted there."

"The University of California's repeated carelessness and the utter disregard for the concerns voiced by Department of Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham and the administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration Linton Brooks, as well as by members of Congress, cannot and will not be tolerated," said Allard. "In my eyes, it is past time for a change."

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